

INTENSIVE IN-HOME SERVICES

Intensive In-home Services, (IIS), previously known as Family Preservation Services (FPS), is a short-term, intensive, home-based, crisis intervention program that offers families in crisis the alternative to remain safely together, averting the out-of-home placement of children. Families that have a child or children at imminent risk of removal from the home due to neglect, abuse, family violence, mental illness, emotional disturbance, juvenile status offense, and juvenile delinquency are offered IIS. Services are provided in the family's home or other natural setting. Families are assigned one principal specialist who is responsible for spending eight to ten (and more if needed) hours per week, in face-to-face, direct contact with the family. The IIS program combines skill-based intervention with maximum flexibility so that services are available to families according to their unique needs. Trained specialists teach families problem-solving and other life skills. Also, the IIS specialists provide information to families regarding other helping resources. In all, IIS focuses on assisting in crisis management and restoring the family to an acceptable level of functioning. Intensive In-Home Services are available statewide for the benefit of all Missouri families.

Safety of all family members is a concern of IIS; however, safety of the child(ren) is the number one consideration. A goal of the program is to modify the home environment and behavior of family members so that the child(ren) at risk of removal can remain safely in the household. Throughout the IIS intervention, safety of the child is continually assessed. A recommendation for immediate removal can be made at any point if the child is at risk of maltreatment.

Based on an analysis of Intensive In-home Services, the following tables reflect statewide data regarding children and families served by the IIS:

Intensive In-home Services SFY-00 – SFY-04					
Fiscal Year	Families Served	Children Served	Average Number of Children per Family	At-risk Children Served	Average Number of At-risk Children per Family
2000	1,678	4,462	2.7	3,440	2.1
2001	1,654	4,368	2.6	3,389	2.0
2002	1,610	4,181	2.6	3,332	2.1
2003	1,618	4,551	2.6	3,213	1.9
2004	1,646	4,165	2.5	3,310	2

The Intensive In-Home Specialist reported the most frequently addressed problem of at-risk children were as follows:

Problem Addressed During Intervention	Number of Cases	Percentage of Cases
Parent/Child Conflict	1,131	34.17%
Lack of Parenting Skills	908	27.43%
Child Neglect	727	21.96%
Lack of Communication Skills	669	20.21%

During SFY-04, 3,130 at-risk children exited IIS.

In July 2002, the Missouri Family Functioning Assessment Scale (MFFAS) was implemented. This is a pre and post assessment tool that will measure change in family functioning in seven domains. Data will be collected and analyzed to better assess the needs of families and improve service delivery. This will also help identify other needs such as training and resource gaps.

A revised on-the-job (OJT) process was implemented that contains both classroom and experiential components. This OJT process is designed to provide a better comprehensive training to provide best practice by new IIS specialists. As of September, 2003, IIS required basic training is competency based. A specialist completes successfully both Parts I and II and receives a certificate recognizing the achievement of “knowledge expected”, skills demonstrated, and proper professional attitude.

Missouri has developed an IIS peer record review tool, as part of our continuous quality improvement process, which is being used both formally and informally. This tool assists specialists and supervisors ensure best practice, as well as, recognizing needed documentation and service gaps.

The IIS training schedule continues to include expanded special issue workshops. In the SFY-02, the schedule included the following new workshops: Adoption Preservation and Support, Cultural Competency, and Working with the Developmentally Challenged Parent. In SFY-02, the newly re-written required basic skills curriculum Parts I and II, and IIS Supervisor’s training were introduced. Beginning in September, 2003, the IIS basic required training became competency based. After successfully completing both Parts I and II, the specialist receives a certificate recognizing the achievement of “knowledge expected”, skills demonstrated, and proper attitude. Our training schedule provides basic required training and optional training to all specialists and supervisors across the state.